

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-1197
JOHN ALBERT

AUGUST 2, 1976

THE SOVIET UNION AND HELSINKI

ANNCR:

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI IS RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN THE AMERICAN PRESS IN REGARD TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD THE PLEDGES SIGNED IN THE FINNISH CAPITAL. VOA NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

SEASONED AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW EXPRESS NO SURPRISE OVER THE FACT THAT, IN THEIR VIEW, THE SOVIET UNION HAS ONLY SUPERFICIALLY ALTERED ITS TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS AS WELL AS ITS RESTRICTIONS ON EMIGRATION AND THE FREE FLOW OF NEWS AND INFORMATION. BUT, WHILE IT IS THEIR JUDGMENT THAT OVERALL SOVIET IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN INSIGNIFICANT, THEY NONETHELESS STRESS THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE BY CONSTANT WESTERN REFERENCES TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF HELSINKI.

THESE CORRESPONDENTS BELIEVE -- AS ALSO DO SEVERAL SPOKESMEN OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS -- THAT ONLY A VIGOROUS WESTERN FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNDERSTANDINGS OF HELSINKI CAN INDUCE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO MAKE REALLY MEANINGFUL CHANGES IN ITS POLICY. (OPT) THEY SEE IN THE EXTENSIVE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN CLAIMING LARGE-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND THE ASSERTED LACK OF WESTERN ACTION ADDITIONAL PROOF OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OVER THE BASKET THREE PROVISIONS OF HELSINKI. (END OPT)

IT'S EMPHASIZED BOTH BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW AND BY SOVIET DISSIDENTS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS SOMEWHAT TEMPERED ITS TACTICS AGAINST THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. THE NINE-MEMBER GROUP OF SOVIET CITIZENS, HEADED BY THE PHYSICIST YURI ORLOV, WHICH TRIES TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI ACCORD, AS WELL AS VALENTIN TURCHIN, PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, STATE THAT NO PROMINENT DISSIDENT HAS BEEN ARRESTED SINCE HELSINKI. APPARENTLY ALSO NO NEW CASES OF DISSIDENTS PLACED IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS WERE OBSERVED. THE ONE EXCEPTION WAS LEONID PLYUSHCH, WHO WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. STILL, IT IS THE FEELING OF "NEW YORK TIMES" CORRESPONDENT DAVID SHIPLER THAT LITTLE MORE THAN COSMETIC IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE IN SOVIET POLICIES TOWARD DISSIDENTS, EMIGRATION IN GENERAL AND THE ENTIRE FIELD OF HUMAN CONTACTS. AND ALSO A CORRESPONDENT OF THE "BALTIMORE SUN" CONCLUDES THAT ONLY "A FEW SMALL AND TECHNICAL STEPS TOWARD COOPERATION AND SECURITY IN EUROPE" WERE MADE.

IN AN ARTICLE IN THE "WASHINGTON POST," ENTITLED "THE UNFULFILLED PROMISE OF HELSINKI," LEONARD MARKS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, WRITES THAT MANY FEARS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH HELSINKI HAVE BEEN REALIZED. HE SEES A NEW "GET-TOUGH" POLICY VIS-A-VIS DISSIDENTS AND PROGRESSIVE EMIGRANTS. HE ALSO FINDS THE IMPROVEMENTS FOR JOURNALISTS AND THE FLOW OF PUBLICATIONS RATHER INSIGNIFICANT. MISTER MARKS SEES THE ONLY CHANCE FOR REAL PROGRESS IN A MORE ACTIVE PURSUIT OF THE BASKET THREE PROVISIONS BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND CLOSE COOPERATION BY ALL WESTERN NATIONS IN THIS

AREA. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SPECIFIC WESTERN PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD FOR IMPLEMENTING BASKET THREE. SUCH PROPOSALS, HE SAYS, SHOULD INCLUDE EXPANDED CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONS EXCHANGES, CONCRETE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION INTO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND, FINALLY, WESTERN PRESSURE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. "WHAT WE NEED," MISTER MARKS CONCLUDES, "IS A POSITIVE POLICY, BACKED BY CONCRETE ACTION, TO CHALLENGE THE USSR ON THE REAL ISSUE ...THE OPENING OF ALL BORDERS TO MORE HUMAN AND INFORMATIONAL CONTACTS, WHICH ARE CENTRAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS."

JS/RCS